4. The price of cotton is being helped to keep steady for exports of surplus varieties and imports of those varieties likely to be in short supply.

Setting up of a steel plant at Mannhar Pur in Bihar

297. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD;

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA;

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar has given a proposal for setting up a steel plant at Manohar Pur out of its own resources;

(b whether the Central)Government propose to include it in the Seventh Five Year plan period; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES ;SHRI K. C. PANT), (a) References have been received from time to time from the Government of Bihar since 1981 about the establishment of a new steel plant based on the iron ore deposits in Chiriya, District Sinjbhum.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Income-Tax assessees

298. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the total number of income tax assessees during the yeprs 1983-84 and J985-86;

(b) what is the total number of tax evaders during the above period; and

(c) what is the number of raids carried out by the Income-tax Department in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) number of income-tax assessees in various years is as under:

Financial Year	No. of assessees
1983-84	4929559
1984-85	4934543
1985-86 (upto July, 1985)	5180959

(b) and (c) On the basis of enquiries made and/or other information available with them, the competent ineometax authorities carry out survey and search operations to unearth tax evasion from time to time. The number of search operations carried out during various years is as under:

Financial Year	No. of searches conducted
1983-84	4332
1984-85	4345
1985-86 (upto October, 1985)	3851

Balance of trade and payment position

299. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD; SHRI

INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are *he details of the actual balance of trade and payment position for the current year;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to reduce the gap; and

(c) what additional steps Government propose take to increase the exports so as to reduce the gap?